Name of the Project	Expected date of completion	Progress of the Project
Hydroelectric Project	Unit-II Jan. 1999	and dykes have been completed and ba-
	Unit-Ill May. 1999 Unit-IV Sept. 1999	lance works on head race tunnel, intake structure and Muran dam are in progress. The erection of main turbine generators is under way. The 400 KV switchyard is almost complete and substantial progress has also been made on other electrical works.
2. Po.tteru Hydro-electric Project	Unit-I Mar. 1997 Unit-II Jun. 1997	The civil works of the power house, diversion weir, head race tunnel are under way. The contracts for supply of generator equipment etc. have been awarded and bulk of equipment has already been procured.

Appointment of retired officers on contract basis

1901. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Wili the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the rules governing the Central Government employees, including the central services, for their appointment on contract basis;

(b) if so, the period upto which an officer can be appointed on contract basis after retirement;, and

(c) what are the criteria being following in such appointments and the benefits being extended to such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Contract is one of the recognized methods of appointment in Government. Such appointments are made by the Ministries/Departments as per requirements of the job and the suitability of the concerned appointees.

(b) and (c) There is no specific period upto which a retired officer can be appointed on contract basis as the period of engagement would depend upon the terms of the contract. However, in so far as extension/re-employment beyond superannuation is concerned, existing instructions provide that 60 years of age is the deadline for non-scientific/technical personnej. Such appointments are made in public interest with the overriding consideration for extension of service/re-employed being that other officers are not ripe enough to take over or the retiring/retired officer is of outstanding merit.

Such appointees are governed by mutually settled terms and conditions as per the contract agreements.

हाजीरा-बीजापुर-जगदीशपुर गैस पाइपलाइन के द्वारा गैस की आपूर्ति

1902. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या हाजीरा-बीजापुर-जगदीशपुर गैस पाइपलाइन के द्वारा गैस की आपूर्ति की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गैस आवंटन का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी॰ आर॰ बालू): (क) जी हां।

(ख) एच॰ बी॰ जे॰ पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से दी जाने वाली गैस का राज्यवार आवंटन निम्नानुसार है:

(एम॰ एम॰ एस॰ सी॰ एम॰ डी॰)

गुजरात	4.77
मध्य प्रदेश	4.20
राजस्थान	3.74
उत्तर प्रदेश	19.12
हरियाणा	2.68
दिल्ली	3.02

Financing the parks and recreational areas

1903. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER b pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to finance parks and recreational areas in cities, towns and urban habitats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have extended any such assistance to any township in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. V. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for introducing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of City/ Urban Forestry has been formulated by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment and has been circulated to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Planning Commission for comments. The proposal seeks to promote city forests, green belts, woodlots, etc., based on a partnership between Central and State Governments and certain town level reforms. In addition, under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of infrastructural development in Mega Cities, the development of parks and recreational areas can be considered by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) Under the Mega Cities Scheme, an amount of Rs. 41.5 crores has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh as Central assistance during 1993-96 for undertaking various urban development programmes, including development of parks and recreational areas. The Hyderabad Urban Development Authority is the nodal agency for implementation of the Scheme.

Oil and gas search by US in eastern part of the country

1904. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has shown its keenness for oil and gas search in the eastern part of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal by leading American expert body (ESRI);

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to give their consent; and

(d) by when the agreement is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Some companies from U.S. have bid in the various exploration bidding rounds.

(b) to (d) Earth Sciences and Resources Institute (ESRI), University of Utah, USA and KDMIPE, ONGC have signed an MOU on 22.03.1995 for a joint scientific study entitled "A Comprehensive Review of the Hydrocarbon Prospectivity of Bengal Basin, Onshore and Offshore India."

File destroying scam in GDA

1905. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a file-destroying scam has been going on in the land department of Ghaziabad Development Authority;